

Flip-it Snuffle Mat Sewing Pattern

BY RAVENN BANG

Intro

Thank you so much for purchasing this pattern. I hope you have as much fun making these as I have. This pattern is intended as a “design your own” snuffle mat. I’ve included several templates for various snuffle pieces and instructions for how to sew them. Feel free to get creative and do things your own way. If you have questions, please send me a message on Etsy and I will do my best to help.

Materials

- Fleece
 - Two 14” x 14” (35.56 cm x 35.56 cm) pieces
 - Multi size fleece scrap pieces
 - Fusible batting or fleece, this can also be substituted with a sturdy interfacing.

Note on materials: You can also try substituting fleece with felt if needed. I have not tested this, but I have seen others use this substitution in tie-in snuffle mats.

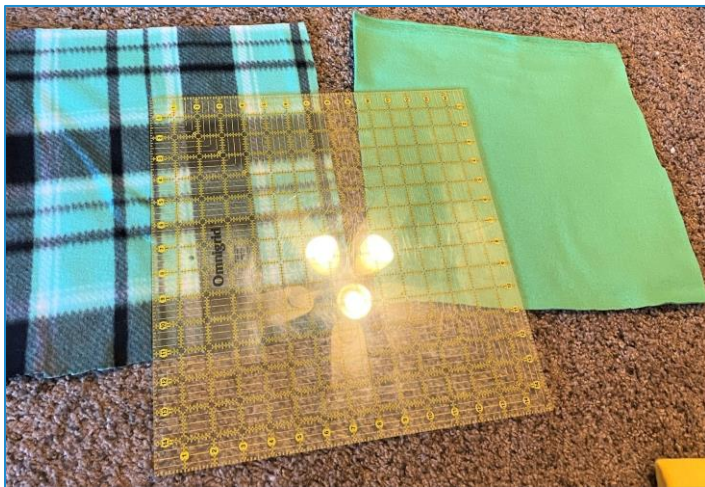
Pattern Notes

- Some of the templates in the pattern can be sewn to the snuffle mat in more than one way, to create different types of treat pockets. I've included some ideas in the pattern, but feel free to come up with your own.
- Depending on the size of your animal, you may want to resize some of the pieces to be larger or smaller. This pattern was tested with a medium size dog and most pieces worked great, but for a larger dog you may need to upsize the pattern pieces. The templates are just suggestions. Get creative!
- You can use a straight stitch to do all the stitching on this pattern, however if you'd like the pieces to have more durability you can go over them again, or just start with a zig-zag stitch. I have used both throughout this pattern.
- The finished mat is intended to be machine washable (yay!).

Step 1: Getting the base pieces ready.

1. Cut two 14" x 14" (35.56 cm x 35.56 cm) squares of your fleece fabric. This will be the base of the snuffle mat. I've included a 7" (17.78cm) x 7" (17.78cm) template. You can print it out four times and tape it together if needed. Otherwise you can skip printing it.

As with everything in this pattern, the size is a suggestion, feel free to deviate from it. If you have a large quilting square, such as the one in the photo, that may make things easier. You could also use any square or rectangle shaped object or box as a template if you don't want to sit and measure with a ruler. You could also use a circle!



2. Cut out two 14" x 14" (35.56 cm x 35.56 cm) of fusible fleece, interfacing or fusible batting, whichever you choose.
 - o If your animal is a "digger" and likes to use their paws, I'd recommend something sturdy, if they are more of a chewer you can go with the fusible batting or fleece. Feel free to experiment with both. You can try something different on each piece of your square.
3. Fuse your chosen interfacing, fusible fleece or batting to the back/wrong side of the pieces.

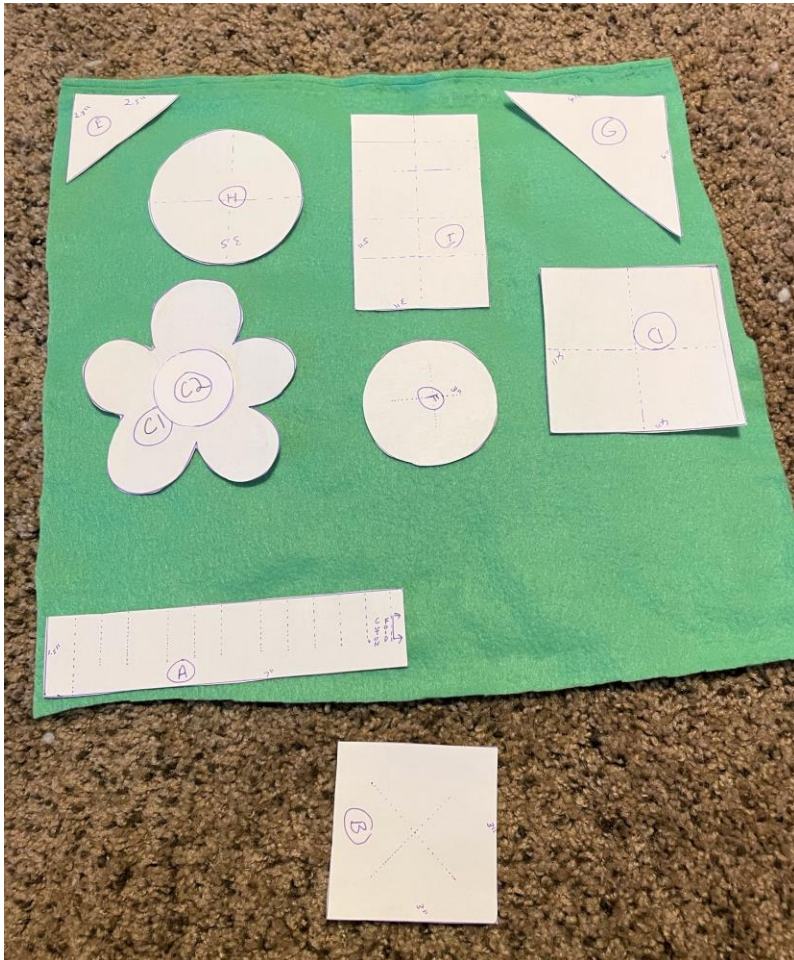
Note that I've chosen to make my snuffle mat reversible, so I can use both sides. You don't have to do that if you don't want to. You are free to just make one side a snuffle mat and keep the other side "blank".

Step 2: Cut out the small template pieces

1. Cut each template piece out.
2. Read through the instructions on how to sew each piece (keep reading).
3. If you're choosing to make both sides a snuffle mat like I did, remember you can create a different layout on each side. No need for them to be the same.

Step 3: Lay out your design

1. Use the pattern piece templates to lay out your design.
 - o When designing you'll want to keep about 1"(2.5cm) around the border clear for a seam allowance.



2. Notice the small letters on each template piece. That's the ID used for the sewing instructions of each piece.
3. Cut the pieces you need out of fleece, and lay them out as well.

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4. Pin the pieces to your base pieces.



5. Be sure to keep about a 1" around the border clear from pieces. This is important for when you put the mat together.

Step 4: Sew down your small pieces

1. Sew down your small pieces to the squares using the guide (keep reading). Read through thoroughly, as there is more than one way to sew each piece down. You can also come up with your own methods based on your preferences.



Step 5: Sew the squares together to complete

1. Place the right(snuffle) sides together.



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2. Pin all the way around.



3. Mark your pieces to leave about 6" - 8" (15cm - 20cm) opening to flip. I like to mark this by turning my pins sideways, but you can also use a pen. If you're a risk-taker, just try to remember not to sew it all the way shut.



4. Sew all the way around (except for the intended opening)

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5. Clip the corners.



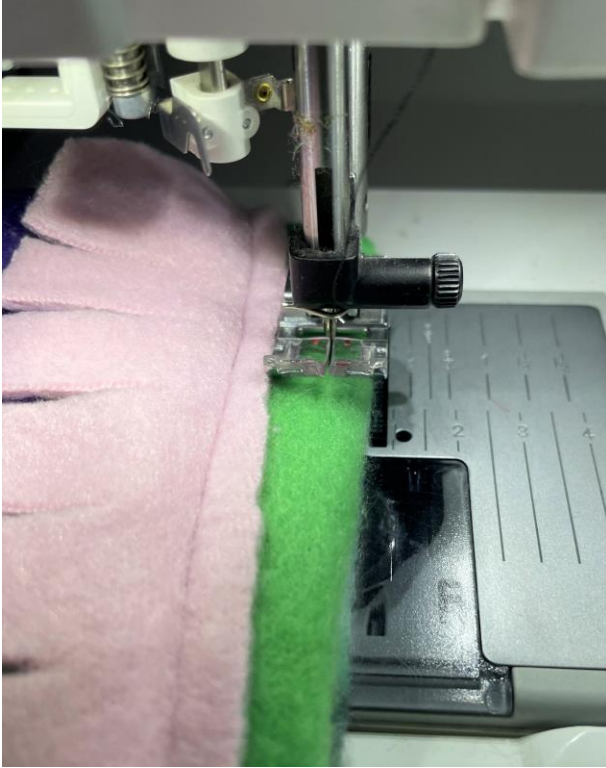
6. Flip and use a blunt object to get your corners out. I like to use a chopstick, but there are more professional tools available.

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7. Top-stitch $\frac{1}{4}$ " (.6cm) all the way around, closing the opening.



8. If you'd like to make more of these and connect them together, you can use snaps or velcro in the corners. This will allow you to make a large snuffle quilt if desired, but this is optional (and not photo'd here as I opted not to do that).



How to sew the snuffle pieces

There are little letters on each little template piece. That is how the pieces are identified here. Please refer to that when looking at these instructions.

Snuffle Piece A

This piece is intended to look similar to a traditional snuffle mat.

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1. You can do one or more rows of this piece. For this example, I'm using three. Please choose how many you wish to use and cut that number out of the fabric.
2. Layer each piece onto your base piece and pin. As you can see in the photo, the pieces should overlap a little. I've overlapped mine about $\frac{1}{4}$ " - $\frac{1}{2}$ " so that the the bottom touches the base piece and the top overlaps with the next piece by $\frac{1}{4}$ " - $\frac{1}{2}$ ".



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3. Stitch down each piece with a $\frac{1}{4}$ "(.5cm) seam allowance. I'm starting with the piece on the bottom.



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4. To get access to the next piece, you'll fold over the first piece and then stitch the next piece down with the same $\frac{1}{4}$ "(.5cm) seam allowance.



5. Repeat for all pieces. Again, I'm using three, but you can do more than that or less.
6. This part is optional, but to create a more "traditional" snuffle mat look, I've opted to cut slits into my rows. Using a ruler you can mark even distances between each piece to cut. I am showing the ruler for those who prefer a guide, but I opted to "freestyle" cut mine without

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marking with a ruler.



7. To make it easier to cut you can fold the fabric. You don't want to cut all the way to the seam, cut about $\frac{1}{4}$ "(.5cm) - $\frac{1}{2}$ "(1cm) above from the seam.



8. This is what my finished product looks like.



Note: The pattern template is intended to be the same length as the base of the snuffle mat. This means that when we sew up the mat, it will be included along the border. If you want to avoid that you can shorten each end by about 1.5”(3.8cm). My example will show you what it looks like with the original template length once it’s all sewn up. This is the only piece that does not adhere to leaving 1”(2.5cm) around the border of the base piece.

Snuffle Piece B & D Squares – Option 1

For option 1 we’re going to sew the square down all the way around and create a little pocket opening to hide treats.

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1. Mark an X in the middle of your fabric square to help guide your cut. You want to keep 1" (2.5cm) around the edge.



2. Fold diagonally along one line. This will allow us to cut the hole without cutting through the border of the piece.

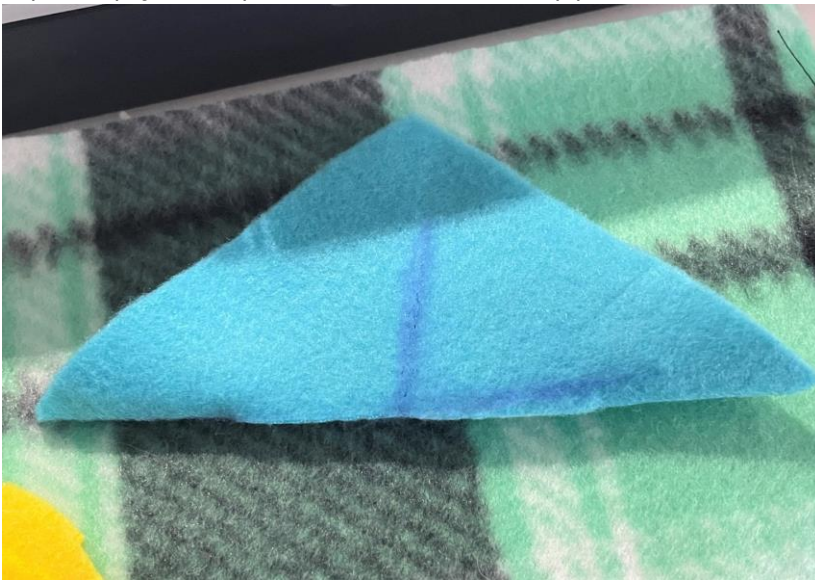


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3. Make a cut along your mark. Remember to keep about 1" (2.5cm) of border around the edge of the fabric.



4. Open up your square. Refold on the opposite line and repeat step 3, make your next cut.



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5. You should have a square with an open x cut if you've followed all the steps.

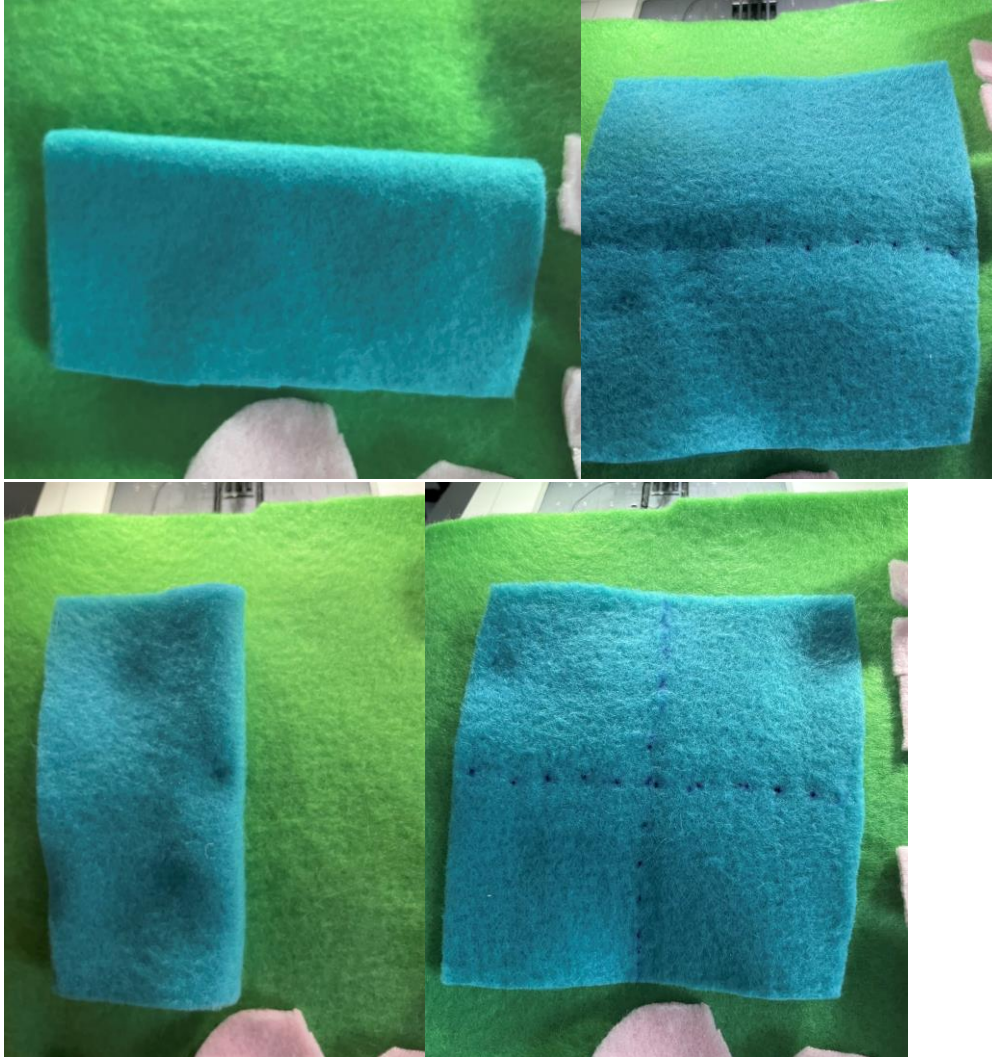


6. Place where desired on your snuffle mat and stitch about ¼" (1 cm) around the border with a straight or zigzag stitch.

Snuffle Piece B & D Squares – Option 2

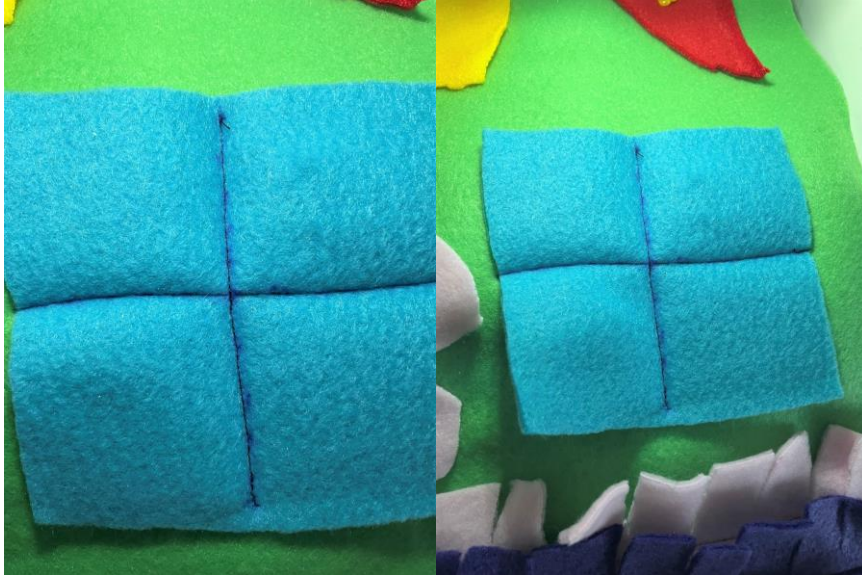
This is another option for creating little pockets for your pet to sniff out their snacks with one of the square peices. This option has no cutting.

1. Place your option B fabric piece where desired on your snuffle mat. You can use a ruler to mark a line through the halfway point or fold in half and mark as I have. You want to mark a line with a pen to use as a guide to sew over. Repeat the opposite direction.



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2. Stitch over the guidelines you drew with a straight or zigzag stitch.



3. You should now have four little pockets to hide treats in.

Snuffle Piece C – Option 1

This little flower can be sewn on in two different ways. This first way we will use a similar method to piece B option 1.

1. Figure out where on your snuffle mat you want the flower to be and lay out your pieces.
2. Take the center circle piece and using the same technique as in Piece B option 1, we will create a center pocket for treats. You can fold the piece in half and mark along the line. Leave at least $\frac{1}{4}$ " (1cm) from the edge uncut.



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3. Lay your circle over the flower petals and pin. We're going to stitch around the circle.



4. Stitch around the circle.



This creates a pocket under the flower petals, where you can hide treats.



5. If you used a straight stitch in step 4, this is what it would look like with a zigzag stitch, which will make it more durable (though not as pretty). You could also use a satin stitch for a

prettier look.



Snuffle Piece C – Option 2

This is the second method for sewing the flower.

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1. Mark the center of your flower (remember, this does not have to be perfect) and draw five lines where we will stitch to create pockets. See the example photo.



2. Place your flower where you want it on your snuffle mat. Stitch over the lines you marked.



3. Place your center circle over the middle of the flower.



4. Using 2-3 stitches, stitch down the center of the circle.



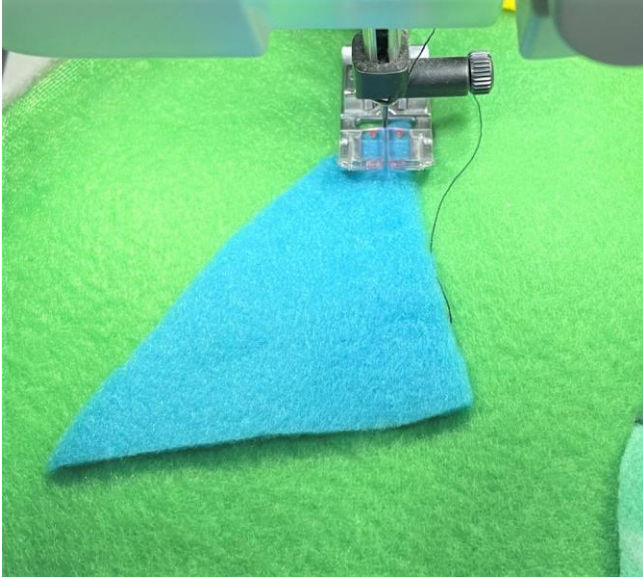
Snuffle Piece E & G – Option 1

These two triangle pieces can be sewn on two ways. I recommend you only use option 2 for the larger one though, as the pockets may be too small for most animals on the small template. Also remember that you can enlarge these shapes for bigger treat pockets for larger animals.

1. Figure out where on your snuffle mat you want the piece to go. Remember to keep at least 1" around the border of the mat clear from pieces.

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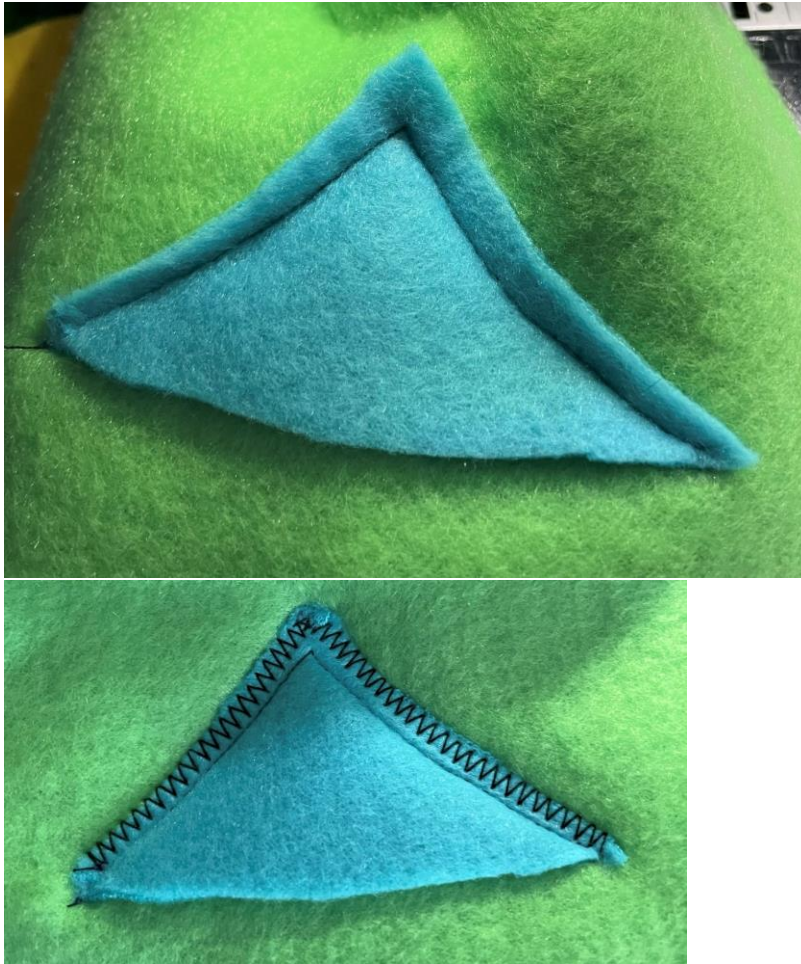
2. Start at one side of the triangle. We will be stitching the two shorter sides down. The larger side will be our treat pocket. Use a $\frac{1}{4}$ " (1cm) seam allowance.



3. Pivot on the corner and continue stitching.



4. You can leave it as is, or if you used a straight stitch, you may want to go over the seam allowance with a zig-zag stitch.



Snuffle Piece E & G – Option 2

This version creates two pockets instead of one. I do not recommend this option for the smaller triangle template as it may be difficult for animals to get the treats out.

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1. Place your piece where you want it on your snuffle mat. Repeat steps 1 – 4 of Option 1. Start at one end of a shorter side and stitch. Leave the widest side open as this will be our pocket.



2. Find the middle of the triangle on the longest side and draw a line from there to the corner. Stitch through to create two pockets.

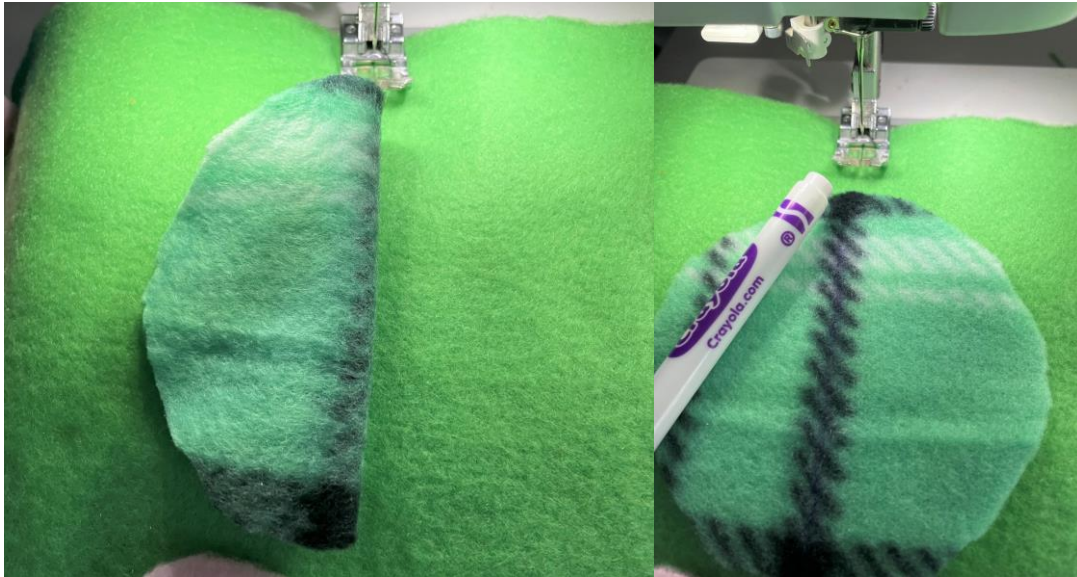


Snuffle Piece F & H – Option 1

These two circle pieces can be sewn on two ways.

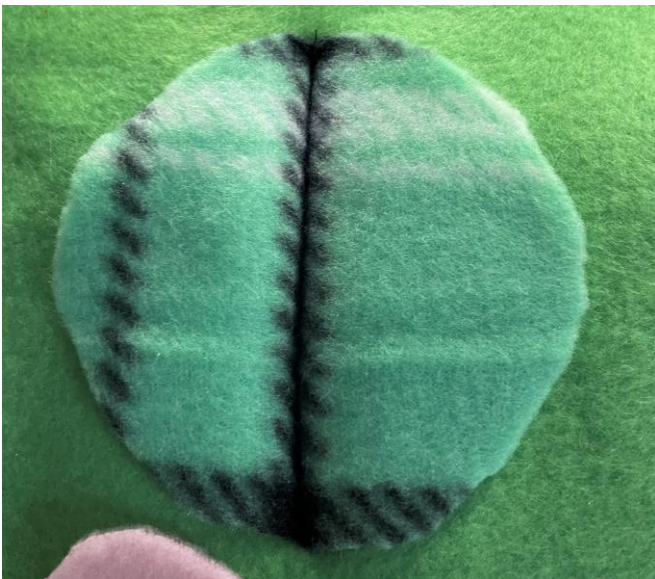
1. Figure out where on your snuffle mat you want the piece to go. Remember to keep at least 1" around the border.
2. Fold the piece in half and draw a line. Or use a ruler. Repeat the opposite direction, so that you have created a cross.

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Note that if you use a washable/water soluble marker like the one shown, it will rub off the fabric onto your sewing machine foot and/or fingers.

3. Stitch your two lines down. (Second line now pictured in the photo below, as I freestyled it)



4. You've now got four little treat pockets.



Snuffle Piece F & H – Option 2

This option uses both circle templates, so cut one big and one small circle.

1. Just like all the previous steps, figure out where this is going on your snuffle mat. Place the larger circle down on the mat. Then fold in half to find the center line. Stitch.



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2. Place the smaller circle on top. Fold the OPPOSITE way to find the center line and stitch.



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3. You should now have six treat pockets. Four on the bottom and two on top.



4. As always, you can use a zigzag stitch to make it more durable.



Snuffle Piece I – Option 1

There are two methods for using the rectangle piece. I recommend if you are making this for a larger animal to use option 1. If you want to use option 2 for a larger animal, enlarge the template piece by an inch or two on each side.

1. Place the piece where you want it on the mat.
2. Fold in half to find the center line. Mark about 1”(2.5cm) from the edge a 1”(2.5cm) horizontal line. Fold the opposite way and repeat to create a little X. Repeat this three times equal distance away from each other. We’re going to be creating little pockets in this the same as we did for B & D option 1.



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3. Cut on the lines you marked to create the little pockets.



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4. Place on your mat and sew around the entire edge $\frac{1}{4}$ "(1cm)



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This concludes how to sew on the template pieces. Please feel free to be creative and come up with your own pieces or your own way of creating treat pockets!

Please do not redistribute this pattern. If a friend thinks it's cool, please recommend they purchase their own from my shop.

Thank-you again for purchasing this pattern. I'd love to see what you make with it!